Annual Report

Lathom

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Lathom and Burscough

Smith.

Gentlemen

I have the honour to present to you my thirteenth annual report on the Health and Sanitation of your district.

Area + Population — The area of Lathom + Burscough is 13654 acres, only a very small portion of it being covered by Water and that only during wet Seasons. The inhabitants are chiefly agriculturalists and Boatmen who work on the Leeds + Liverpool Canal which runs right through the District.

The Population at the last Census was 7111 and I estimate it now as being about 7724 so that during the past eight years there has not been any great increase. The number of inhabited houses is 1410 and would I think be an increase on the number of last year as there are not now so many houses untenanted. A considerable number of Boatmen + farm labourers have been out of employment at various times of the year owing to slackness of trade and other causes and there has been a fair amount of distress in consequence of this.

Births — 198 Births were registered in the District during the year. The number of females being slightly in excess of the male. namely

Males	97
Females	101
Total	198

These 198 Births are equal to a birth rate of 25·6 per thousand + compares favourably with that of last year, when the number of birth was only 177 and the Birth Rate 22·35. It is however considerably

below the average for the past ten years, the average being 28·28. Eight out of the total were illegitimate births, a much larger number than is usual in this District.

Deaths The actual number of deaths registered in the district was 97 giving a death rate of 12·5 but to this number must be added 9 others, residents who died in various institutions outside the district & should of course be included in our Death Rate. The corrected number therefore is 106 & the death rate 13·7 being the lowest death rate registered since 1903.
A Remarkable fact about the deaths this year is the great preponderance of female deaths over male. Only 43 males having died and 63 females.

Zymotic death rate. The seven principal Epidemic diseases viz — Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Whooping cough, Fever (including Typhus and Continued fever) and Diarrhoea gave rise to 5 deaths, a zymotic death rate of ·64 per thousand or 4·71 per cent of the total deaths from all causes.
Last year and the year before the number of deaths from Zymotic disease was 12 so that the death rate this year compares very favourably with those of previous years. One death was due to Measles 3 to Whooping Cough and one to Diphtheria.

Infantile mortality Twenty two deaths of children under one year of age were registered. This gives an annual Infantile mortality rate of 111·1 per thousand births.
Last year the infantile deaths rate was only 98·8 so that this year it is considerably higher. Still it is well below the average for the past ten years namely 136·4 and is a little lower than that for the whole of England and Wales.
Bronchitis, Pneumonia and Premature birth each accounted

[illegible] the average for the past ten years, the average being 13.28. Eight out of the total were illegitimate births, a much larger number than is usual in the District.

Deaths — The actual number of deaths registered in the district was 97 giving a death rate of 13.5 but to this number must be added 9 other residents who died in various institutions outside the district & deaths of [illegible]. The corrected number therefore is 106 & the death rate 13.7 being the lowest death rate registered [illegible]. A remarkable fact about the deaths this year is the great preponderance of female deaths, there were only 43 males dying, there were 63 females.

Zymotic death rate. — The seven principal zymotic diseases viz — Smallpox, Measles, Scarlet fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, Membranous Croup, Fever (including typhus and continued fever) and Diarrhoea gave rise to 5 deaths a zymotic death rate of ·64 per thousand or 4.7 per cent of the total deaths. For last year and the year before the number of deaths from zymotic diseases was 17 so that the death rate this year compares very favourably with those of previous years. One death was due to Measles 3 to Whooping Cough and 1 to Diarrhoea.

Infantile Mortality — Fourteen deaths of infants under one year of age were registered. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 111.1 per thousand births. Last year the infantile death rate was 47.8 so that there is a considerable increase, but it is still below the average for the past ten years namely 126.4 and is a little more than half the infantile death rate of England and Wales.

[illegible] Pneumonia and Bronchitis [illegible] for four deaths, making a total of 12 deaths out of the 22 registered. In previous years Diarrhoea and Gastro Enteritis were the chief causes of the Infantile mortality, but during the years 1907 + 8 this illness has been neither so prevalent nor so fatal, owing largely to the favourable atmospheric conditions during the months of August, September + October. There was only one illegitimate death registered.

Although our Infantile mortality is fairly favourable I still feel certain, however, that it might be very considerably reduced yet. A District nurse has been appointed for Lathom + Burscough whose duty it is to attend to the poor and ailing. Her Services have been of great benefit in the District + already a marked change is noticeable in the manner in which the working classes nurse their sick, that is in those cases which she has visited. I think that if the Notification of Births act 1907 was adopted by the Board and a Lady Health Visitor appointed whose duty it would be to visit houses in which there were little infants + children + who would advise the parents on the feeding of Infants that our Infantile mortality might still be considerably reduced.

Smallpox No cases occurred in the district nor in Ormskirk so that none were admitted into our Smallpox Hospital.

Measles Measles are not notifiable in the district so that I am unable to say how many cases occurred but during May + June there were a considerable number of cases which came under my observation. Most of them were very mild + only one death was registered.

Scarlet Fever Sporadic cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the whole year, altogether 16 being notified. Ten from Burscough and six from Lathom. Four from each for four deaths, producing a total of 12 deaths out of the 32 registered. In previous years Diarrhoea and Gastro-Enteritis were the chief cause of the Infantile mortality, but during the years 1907 & 8 these diseases have been rather less prevalent & in fact, owing largely to the favourable atmospheric conditions during the months of August September & October there was only one Diarrhoeal death registered. Although our Infantile mortality is fairly favourable I still feel certain however that it might be still considerably reduced yet. A District nurse having been appointed for Fulham & Barnes [illegible] it is to attend to the poor and ailing. The Nurse has been of great benefit in the District & also by a course of lectures to mothers on the manner in which the working classes rear their young. That is in those cases which she has visited. I think that if the Notification of Births Act 1907 was adopted by the Board and a Lady Health Visitor appointed whose duty it would be to visit houses in which there were little infants & children, & to give advice to the parents in the feeding of Infants that our Infantile mortality might still be considerably reduced.

...allpox No cases occurred in the district nor in [illegible] so that none were admitted into our Isolation Hospital

...easles Measles are not notifiable in the district so that I cannot state if any have recently occurred but during May & June there were a considerable number of cases which came under my observation. Most of them were very mild & only one death was registered.

...arlet ...ever Eighteen cases of Scarlet Fever were reported during the whole year [illegible] the large majority [illegible] occurring in the months [illegible] district were removed to Hospital or 50 per cent of the total affected. No death occured in any case. Scarlet Fever is undoubtably decreasing in the District and not only in the district but also in England & Wales as well. It is not nearly so fatal as it was even twenty years ago and this very mildness makes it more difficult for the parents to recognize it, consequently, their children are allowed to mix with others and so you get cases occurring here and there at times over the district.

Whooping Cough. A considerable number of cases occured in Lathom at the commencement of the year, January, February & March chiefly amongst scholars attending Hall Lane Schools. There were also later on a few cases in Burscough. Three deaths were registered as due to Whooping Cough proving that this is a much more serious illness than the majority of parents regard it as.

Diphtheria Twenty four cases were notified as compared with thirty two last year and only one death occured. Three were removed to Hospital from each district making a total of 6. The small mortality from Diphtheria I consider is due to the early Notification of Diphtheria and free use of Anti toxine in the early stages of the disease. Most of the cases were reported during the first quarter and Hall Lane Schools Lathom were closed in February as many of the children were attending school suffering from ill-defined sore throats probably mild cases of Diphtheria.

Enteric Fever. Nineteen cases were notified and five were removed to Hospital. All recovered so that we were very fortunate considering the number of cases reported. There was a large increase of Enteric

or Typhoid Fever as compared both with last year and the year before. Last year only 3 were notified and the year before (1906) only 10. Most of the Cases occured during the first four months of the year but we were never quite free from it any month.

Diarrhoea The deaths from diarrhoea include the deaths of children under one year of age registered as due to Enteritis, Epidemic diarrhoea, Zymotic Enteritis, Summer diarrhoea, Dysentery and Cholera and number 3, all being under the age of 12 months.

Epidemic Influenza We were again visited by Influenza during the earliest months of the year. Three deaths resulted one of an infant and two of adults.

Respiratory Diseases. Respiratory diseases comprising Bronchitis, Pneumonia + Pleurisy accounted for 18 deaths or 16·9 per cent of the deaths from all causes.

Heart Diseases Heart disease occasioned 16 deaths or 2·07 per thousand of the Population and is higher than that of the County for the past 10 years namely 1·27.

Phthisis Phthisis or Pulmonary Tuberculosis accounted for 3 deaths all in Burscough equal to ·38 per thousand the average for the County being 0·90 so that we are well below it.

Cancer. Under the heading of Cancer nine deaths are registered or 1·16 per 1000 about twice as large a death Rate as that of the County.

Notification of Infectious Disease. The total number of infectious diseases notified during the year amounts to 69 or 5 below the number received in 1907. There was a decrease of 17 cases of Scarlet Fever and a decrease of 9

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2018 with funding from
Wellcome Library

https://archive.org/details/b29719896

cases of Diphtheria. An increase of 16 cases of Enteric Fever. Fall in Erysipelas & Puerperal Fever.

Diseases	1907	1908
SCARLET FEVER	33	16
DIPHTHERIA	32	24
ERYSIPELAS	5	7
ENTERIC FEVER	3	16
PUERPERAL FEVER	1	3
	74	69

Neither Measles nor Whooping Cough are notifiable in the District.

One School (Hall Lane Infants) for Whooping Cough and one School was closed (Wesleyan [illegible]) for Measles. Besides the closure of Schools for these diseases we have also taken advantage of excluding children from School who were suffering from non dangerous Infectious diseases, [illegible] dangerous to some of the [illegible] [illegible] known mild in this [illegible] this measure is generally adopted first & when this fails to check the Epidemic it then becomes necessary to advise a graver step, that of closing the School.

Hospitals. [illegible] the Ormskirk we have an Isolation Hospital in Ormskirk capable of accommodating [illegible]. The number of Diseases that can be concurrently treated are

Scarlet Fever	16
Enteric Fever	5
Diphtheria	5
Total.	26

At the Small Pox hospital situated [illegible] we are able to treat 16 cases of Small Pox. [illegible] patients were treated at the Isolation

Hospital, admissions from the Gayton & Dunsop district namely

Diphtheria	6	cases
Scarlet Fever	8	"
Enteric Fever	5	"
Total	19	cases.

No death occurred in Hospital during the 12 months

solation sinfection In all cases of Infectious disease notified to me or when I have cause to suspect that there is anything of an Infectious nature a visit is made either by me or by Mr Burrows and an endeavour made to trace its origin.

Instructions are given to the householder regarding the precautions that ought to be taken to prevent any further spread of the disease. Disinfectants are issued free of charge and if the parents have proper facilities for the thorough Isolation of the Infected patient he or she is allowe to be treated at home. If however they have not th means to isolate the case it is removed to the Isolation Hospital along with all infected bedding and the room or rooms occupied by the patient are disinfected by Formalin Vapour.

All infected bedding is disinfected at the Isolation Hospital by a Washington Lyon Steam Disinfecto

Leaflets are sent to all cases of Infectious Disease on the management of Infectious Disease.

venging Scavenging is let out by Contract and has been fairly satisfactory. A considerable number of complaints have been made however of the difficulty that some of the inhabitants have experienced in getting their ashpits emptied & I would suggest that more regular visits should be made by the Contractor to Ashpits in the outlying areas.

Closet Accommodation

There are about 1640 privy middens + ashpits 120 Fresh water closets, 10 Waste Water Closets and a few pail closets.

I would strongly advise the promotion wherever possible of the conversion of the Middens to the Water Carriage System.

Most of the Privies are very badly constructed & allow the surrounding soil to be polluted by soakage of liquid filth from them as well as polluting the air by faecal emanations.

As long as this continues I do not see any possibility of [illegible] being free from Typhoid & Diphtheria.

All the Privies at the various schools should be converted to the water carriage system and should be put into as perfect order as it is possible for them to be put. School children should not be allowed to play near these places during their dinner hour as I frequently see them doing. Disinfectants should be used daily about them and all should be kept scrupulously clean and I feel sure that any money spent in this direction would be money extremely well spent and would I also feel sure lessen the amount of sickness amongst children especially Diphtheria and Enteric Fever.

I am Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant
M.O.H.

[illegible]
March 22/09

Annual Report on Factories and Workshops [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] of the [illegible]

[illegible] Lathom [illegible]

Gentlemen

[illegible] my [illegible] [illegible] the year 1908 to you [illegible]

[illegible]

Last year there were 32 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] workshops have been closed during the [illegible] [illegible] have been added to the [illegible] [illegible] nearly one [illegible]

With reference to the number of inspections of Factories, there have been 26 and one written notice has been sent.

Seventy one inspections have been made to workshops and 14 written notices have been sent to remedy defects.

Altogether 15 notices including Factories and Workshops.

Want of Cleanliness 11 defects found.

[illegible] accommodation insufficient 1

[illegible] 3

All these defects were remedied.

There are no [illegible] in the District.

I am Gentlemen

Your obedient Servant

J S Lay.

M.O.H.

Urban District Council of Lathom and Burscough

Surveyors Office
March 190

Annual Report of Inspector of Nuisances.

To the Chairman & Members of the U.D. Council of Lathom & Burs

Gentlemen.

ms: During the year 1908 fourteen Plans have been appr by the Council for the erection of 1 new house and 9 new cottages the remainder being for alterations additions &c to existing bui

600 Lineal Yards of new 3" water mains have been laid and 8 houses connected with the Councils mains.

The Water supply is obtained by pumping from 2 Artesian Bore holes 150 ft and 330 feet deep respectively driven in the new Red Sandstone in the Council's district at Dark Lane, Burscough and maintains its high standard of quality — the County Analyst report herewith shews viz ——

Dr Campbell Brown's Report

Mark or Denomination of Sample	Tap at Lathom & Burscough U.D. Council office Mill Lane, Burscough, 18th July
Solid matter in Solution	21.000
xygen required to oxidise in 15 minutes	.000
in 30 minutes	.000
mmonia	.000
mmonia from Organic matter by distillation with Alkaline Permanganate	.005
itrogen as Nitrates	.527
ombined Chlorine	3.000

Clear and Colourless, Slight Acid Reaction, No organic a few minute mineral particles.

The Sample is of excellent quality for domestic use.

[illegible] this 1st day of July 1908
Signed J. Campbell Brown D.Sc.

Urban District Council of [illegible]

[illegible]

Annual Report of [illegible] to the Urban District Council of [illegible]

Gentlemen,

[illegible]

The supply has been ample throughout the year, a total quantity of 36,871,390 gallons having been pumped into the distributing tanks of which there are two viz – a high level tank of 30,000 gallons capacity to serve [illegible] the higher district at Westhead in [illegible] and a low level tank of 80,000 gallons capacity to supply the low lying parts of Burscough and Lathom. Of this quantity 9,203,880 gallons have been supplied for trade purposes and 1,583,930 gallons to the township of Rufford in the West Lancs Rural District area partly under an agreement with Sir Thomas Hesketh which has now been terminated, and [illegible] under an agreement sanctioned by the Local Government Board with the West Lancs Rural District Council.

Deducting these amounts from the total supply, the number of gallons delivered to the Councils own district (population estimated at 6750) for domestic purposes [illegible] gallons an average of 13 gals per head per [illegible]

[illegible] In July 1907 the Council fixed an 8 inch Negretti & Zambra Rain gauge at the Waterworks Pumping Station and the readings are taken every morning at 9 a.m. Last Year was therefore the first [illegible] that could be obtained [illegible] that 32·88 inches of rain was recorded, an average of 2·74 inches per month. The wettest month was September with 4·395 inches of rain and the driest June with 1·13 inches of rain. The day on which most rain fell was August 27th with 1·49 inches.

[illegible] No houses have been condemned by the Council but 3 have been closed and 1 demolished during the Year.

Scavenging Is carried on by contract on the whole in a satisfactory manner, but it is intended in next years contract to make arrangements for regular and periodical visits to be made to all ashpits in the emptying area so as to obviate the necessity of tenants giving notice to the office whenever they require their ashpits attending to. The refuse is disposed of to farmers for manurial purposes and rubbish such as old bottles, tins &c are used to fill up pits, ditches, and low lying parts of fields, being afterwards covered over with about 9 inches of soil and then brought into cultivation.

[illegible] The recently provided parts of Burscough Bridge and Burscough Town are sewered on the separate system as far as [illegible] is practicable and at the top ends of the principal sewers there are 5 flushing tanks each of 500 gallons capacity fitted with [illegible] flushing syphons which are used about every fortnight during the summer and about once a week in very hot dry weather. Notwithstanding frequent flushing, complaints have been made of the smell at the open ventilating manholes [illegible] offensive at times and the Council have given instructions for 4 of them to be closed and ventilated by shafts. This it is intended to do by laying 9 inch pipes connected to 6 inches internal diameter concrete vent shafts 17 feet high and fitted at the top with Boyles Patent Air pump ventilating cowls. 6 connections to these Sewers have been put in during the year. The Sewage from this district is disposed of by broad irrigation on the Councils farm at New Lane Burscough which is 10 statute acres in extent and on which excellent crops of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible].

[illegible] The sewage [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the flow is treated [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the effluent

thence passes to the water course.
The Sludge is air dried on lagoons and finds a ready sale to neighbouring farmers when ready for removal for the purpose of manuring grass land. The effluent from the farm is invariably classed as 'Good' by the Ribble Joint Committee's Inspector. The Sewage from the village of Westhead at the south end of the district is treated in precipitation tanks with alumino-ferric, the tank effluent then passing through a double pair of bacteria filters. The high level beds are 3' 0" deep (2' 6" coke with 6" of fine breeze cinders on top) and the low level beds consisting of 1' 6" of cinders with 4 to 6" of fine on the top. Owing to the material of the beds being renewed during the year and samples having been taken shortly after re-charging one or two bad samples were obtained, but they soon got into working order, and the effluent afterwards was satisfactory.

Canal Boats. All Canal Boats were inspected during the year and on the whole these were entirely satisfactory. So far as to cleanliness and [illegible] notices were served for infringement 8 viz — "want of painting, certificate on board, non registration &c all of which were complied with on service of notice.

Bakehouses. These are inspected several times at irregular periods during the year and almost without exception are found in excellent order.
There are no underground Bakehouses.

Slaughter Houses. There are 2 private slaughter houses in the district and all are kept in a satisfactory condition. No public abattoir is provided or considered necessary.

Lodging houses. There are no lodging houses in the district

Dairies & Cowsheds The cowsheds are inspected at frequent intervals during the year. They are kept in fair condition on the whole, but in nearly all cases being old buildings, are not up to date, and although the "diaries & cowsheds" regulations are in force in the district, they are not enforced as this would necessitate the building of new premises in most cases and sooner than do this the farmers would give up keeping cows except for their own domestic use and thus create a difficulty in giving an adequate milk supply over such a large area with our scattered population. The cows are turned out practically every day the whole year round except in very severe weather & therefore the air space regulations do not affect the shippons so much as would be the case if the cattle were kept up entirely for the winter months.

There are no real diaries, or milk shops where milk is stored and kept for sale, almost the whole of it being taken out direct from the shippons to the consumers.

Food unfit for consumption No food has been seized as unfit for consumption during the past year.

Nuisances. 3 Notices have been served for abatement of nuisances. One for keeping fowls in a dirty state, likely to cause disease, one for a blocked drain, and one for repairs to ashpits, yard pavement and broken slop stone waste pipes.

No legal proceedings have been necessary but there have been 86 nuisances remedied altogether by calling the attention of the persons responsible, personally, or by letter, to the same. They are enumerated as follows viz —

Combined Privies & Ashpits Repaired, roofed or cemented 26
New Privies & Ashpits provided in place of dilapidated buildings 10

Blocked drains opened 17. Drains taken up & relaid with new pipes 5. Defective Yard pavements taken up and relaid with new materials 15. Slopstone waste pipes and broken gully traps replaced 8. Fowls kept in a condition creating nuisance and pigs kept within the prescribed distance from dwellings 2. Cesspools cleaned out 2. Smoke nuisance abated 1.
The Council have applied to the Local Government Board for a number of Sections of the Public Health Act Amendment Act of 1907 to be put into force in this district and when these powers are obtained it is expected that they will be able to deal with nuisances more effectively and expeditiously than by procedure under the P.H. Acts 1875.

Closet
commodation

There are in the district approximately 1440 Privy middens and ashpits. 130 Fresh water closets. 10 Waste Water closets. No pail closets. 2 Privy middens have been converted to Fresh Water Closets and dry ashpits during the year.

Smoke.

The nuisance which was caused by emission of an excessive quantity of black smoke has now been abated by the Company responsible for the same using coke in the furnace in place of coal. There are not more than about half a dozen tall factory chimneys in the district and as no nuisance is created by any of them, no timed observations have been made during the year and there are no regulations in force limiting the period for emission of black smoke per hour.

I am Gentlemen
Your obedient Servant
J. Burrows